39350 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules

Closed Feb 14, 2025 · Discussion · 4 Participants · 1 Topics · 5 Answers · 0 Replies · 0 Votes

4

PARTICIPANTS

1

TOPICS

5

ANSWERS

0

REPLIES

0

VOTES

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

SUBMIT A COMMENT

Important: All comments will be made available to the public. Please only submit information that you wish to make available publicly. The Office of Administrative Hearings does not edit or delete submissions that include personal information. We reserve the right to remove any comments we deem offensive, intimidating, belligerent, harassing, or bullying, or that contain any other inappropriate or aggressive behavior without prior notification.

Lee Landstrom · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Feb 11, 2025 4:08 pm づ 0 Votes

1) "A. disposed of by burial, except: ... 8.7 (3) by a person who owns or operates land used for farming, if the waste.... 8.8 treated seed is generated as part of that person's farming operation and is buried on the land..."farming in a nuisance-free, pollution-free, and aesthetic manner". This burial is not a clean practice. The neonic (or other pesticide) covering can still leach into the groundwater. Even with the restriction sighted in lines 8.10-8.23, I fear there will continue to be much more contamination. The rules about disposal must be strict and have consequences and punishments. Individuals must not be allowed to poison the environment for their neighbors and future generations.
2) " 9.11 F. used, donated, sold, or offered for oil processing or for fuel or fuel production, 9.12 except as allowed in Item B". This also sounds like a bad idea. Allowing neonics into fuel that is going to be burned and released into the air?

3) On the Factsheet, I see that treated seed is allowed for wildlife habitat and wildlife feed plantings. Neonics are poisonous to birds and harmful to mammals. They should be forbidden from planting on (leased) wildlife plots. Who cares if the wildlife crops have some insect damage? Keep these toxic pesticides away from public lands!

4) Factsheet: Packaging: rinse water from these bags should NOT be allowed to be applied onto croplands. This water is toxic, too, and will runoff into surface waters.

Laurie Schneider · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Feb 12, 2025 1:46 pm d 0 Votes

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR OUR COMMENTS.
Pollinator Friendly Alliance is a conservation organization involved in land restoration and

1 of 3 Full Report

39350 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules

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environmental work for a healthy Minnesota. Our extensive following is keenly aware of the toxic contamination caused by pesticide-treated seed to our water, land, and plants which cause illness for wildlife and humans. We respectfully submit these comments on MPCA's proposed amendment to rules governing waste treated seed (OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350). Thank you for developing much needed new rules for the disposal of waste treated seed.

Rosemary Malfi · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Feb 13, 2025 6:05 pm ປ**່** 0 Votes

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and American Bird Conservancy respectfully submit these comments on the waste treated seed rule. Please see the attached document.

Rosemary Malfi · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Feb 14, 2025 9:31 am づ 0 Votes

I am submitting the following comment on behalf of Nancy Lee Falkum, member of White Earth Band of Ojibwe. Nancy was unable to log in to the OAH system and has not heard back from the webmaster.

February 13, 2025

The Office of Administrative Hearings Attention: Judge Suzanne Todnem 600 Robert St. North St. Paul MN 55101

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Waste Treated Seed, Minnesota Rules, chapter 7035, and 7045. Revisor's ID Number R-4806. OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350.

Dear Judge Todnem,

As a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, I would like to voice my concerns regarding the governing of waste treated seeds (WTS).

MPCA must require a WTS burial setback distance that is greater than 200 feet for private wells of drinking water for animals and humans. How are wildlife creatures to find clean water if we continue to pollute the earth's water with known harmful contaminants such as neonicotinoids!

Regarding best practices for on-farm burial of WTS: The MPCA will have to be very clear about the instructions for this process as the average person must hear or read something 8-16 times before it is fully retained. Please be clear about the quantity of WTS and how thick they can be spread. This must also include plans for future well and septic locations.

MPCA should be clear about wellhead protection areas, karst geology and drain tile locations as to where WTS can be buried.

Consistent labeling of harmful contaminants, such as neonicotinoids, and correct and

2 of 3 Full Report

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clear instructions for disposal of WTS are necessary. Package information should include the requirement that WTS be disposed of at municipal solid waste land disposal facilities.

Detailed instructions for the removal of WTS that has spilled during transportation or planting must be included. Spring is a vulnerable time for migrating birds and their use of stopover points that might be subject to contamination due to spillage could be harmful or deadly.

Thank you and the MPCA for attempting to keep humans and wildlife out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lee Falkum White Earth Reservation Enrollment No.408B026986 212 Second Street East Wabasha, Minnesota 55981 651-565-2360 Guthrie55981@gmail.com

Matthew Berger · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Feb 14, 2025 3:46 pm づ 0 Votes

Please see the attached correspondence that has been sent to Daniel Gonzalez of the MPCA on February 14, 2025.

3 of 3 Full Report



February 12, 2025

TO: The Office of Administrative Hearings

Attn: Judge Suzanne Todnem

600 Robert St N, St Paul, MN 55101

TO: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Waste Treated Seed, Minnesota Rules, chapter 7035, and 7045. Revisor's ID Number R-4806. OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350.

Dear Judge Todnem,

Pollinator Friendly Alliance is a conservation organization involved in land restoration and environmental work for a healthy Minnesota. Our extensive following is keenly aware of the toxic contamination caused by pesticide-treated seed to our water, land, and plants which cause illness for wildlife and humans. We respectfully submit these comments on MPCA's proposed amendment to rules governing waste treated seed (OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350). Thank you for developing much needed new rules for the disposal of waste treated seed.

We recommend the following six revisions to the proposed amendment:

Definition: Waste treated seed (WTS) is pesticide-treated seed that is no longer needed and is considered industrial waste.

MPCA should require a WTS burial setback distance that is greater than 200 ft for private wells that supply drinking water to humans or animals. As MPCA acknowledges, burial of WTS is the least preferred option for disposal because this can further contribute to surface and groundwater contamination. Neonicotinoids, which are applied as seed treatments to some of Minnesota's most abundant crops (corn, soy, wheat) often end up in waterways. Most of the neonics applied to seeds are *not* absorbed by the growing plants, leaving 80–98% of the pesticides in the soil, where they can then move into surface or groundwater. Neonicotinoids are a pesticide of concern in Minnesota. Given the high solubility of neonicotinoids, and in the absence of good data showing how seed burial (vs. planting) may affect pesticide infiltration of waterways, It is therefore reasonable to assume that seeds buried en masse at a single location only 200 ft away from a water well is not sufficiently protective. MPCA should operate under the precautionary principle and increase this distance; we recommend 1000 ft, which MPCA uses for other water sources. In Minnesota, neonics are a "surface water pesticide of concern". https://www.mda.state.mn.us/surface-water-pesticides-concern

MPCA should prohibit WTS burial on wellhead protection areas. The proposed amendment requires a setback distance of 1000 feet from public water supplies. We would like MPCA to clarify where the setback begins and ends.

MPCA must better define best practices for WTS burial on-farm. If there is a large quantity of WTS that a generator is permitted to bury on-farm, that generator needs information about best practices for minimizing harm to waterways and wildlife. MPCA discusses burial depth and setbacks, but it does not discuss appropriate concentrations of seed per area.

We ask MPCA to track WTS quantities entering the waste stream. If the facility must determine how much waste treated seed it can accept, we presume the facility has to track how much seed they receive in order to know if they are approaching an established cap. It therefore seems reasonable for MPCA to collect information on the amount of seed coming into waste facilities. This information is important for understanding the scale of WTS disposal in MN and whether additional policies are needed to address this waste stream.

We ask MPCA to work with MDA to develop consistent labeling for treated seed in MN as it relates to disposal requirements. As MPCA describes, currently there is no enforceable label for treated seeds and the labels that do exist are often vague and inconsistent. We strongly support the creation of consistent labels for treated seed in MN that convey the state's disposal requirements.

Spilled seed not recovered for planting should be defined as WTS. Observational studies on Minnesota farmland have found that growers are not properly mitigating spilled neonicotinoid-coated seed during the course of planting, directly exposing wildlife to toxic chemicals and underscoring the need for regulations. We recommend classifying spilled seed that is not recovered for subsequent planting as WTS, subject to the disposal regulations developed by MPCA.

We support the following proposed changes in the amendment:

<u>Leaching mitigation.</u> It is declared that waste treated seed (WTS) is classified as industrial solid waste. This means that generators must send WTS to disposal facilities that are equipped with a liner and leachate management to avoid soil and groundwater contamination.

<u>Covering seed immediately.</u> We strongly support the new requirement for mixed municipal solid waste land disposal facilities to place immediate cover on WTS to prevent harm to wildlife, such as birds and deer, that might forage on pesticide-coated seeds.

<u>Composting prohibition.</u> We support the added provisions that clearly state that WTS is categorically excluded from all composting operations, including at mixed municipal solid waste disposal sites.

<u>Prohibited uses and reuses.</u> We support provisions stating that WTS may not be used, donated, sold, or offered for animal feed, and we appreciate the clarification that this applies to wildlife. We support provisions that explicitly prohibit the use of WTS for oil processing, fuel, or fuel production. These regulations are essential for preventing the disastrous consequences witnessed in Mead, Nebraska when WTS was used for ethanol production resulting in byproducts with astronomical levels of pesticides. The byproducts were then spread on local fields as soil conditioners or via irrigation, contaminating the surrounding area and its waterways with harmful levels of pesticides. Community members, pets and wildlife became ill. Cleanup has been costly, and it is taking years to complete.

Open burning prohibition. We support provisions that prohibit open burning of WTS.

<u>Burial prohibition.</u> We generally support the provisions that prohibit burial of treated seed. We find the provision exempting "a person who owns or operates land used for farming, if the waste treated seed is generated as part of... [the farming operation]" to be reasonable because the regulations specifically state that this exemption <u>does not apply</u> if there is reasonable access to "regularly scheduled pickup of solid waste." However, **MPCS needs** to work with municipalities to determine which areas in the state have "reasonable access" and to educate those generators about proper disposal.

<u>Prohibited burial locations.</u> We support provisions that prohibit WTS burial on karst, wetlands, floodplains, and shorelands. We support the regulations that specify some required best practices for burial (e.g. contouring of the burial site), which help to prevent wildlife poisoning, contamination from runoff, and groundwater infiltration.

We hope you will consider these important rules to keep our water, land, communities, people and wildlife healthy and safe. Thank you for your work.

Respectfully,

Laurie Schneider, Executive Director, Pollinator Friendly Alliance laurie@pollinatorfriendly.org, 651-503-9904



Attn: Judge Suzanne Todnem
The Office of Administrative Hearings
600 Robert St N, St Paul, MN 55101

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Waste Treated Seed, Minnesota Rules, chapter 7035, and 7045. Revisor's ID Number R-4806. OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350.

Feb 14, 2025

Dear Judge Todnem,

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, American Bird Conservancy, and Pollinator Friendly Alliance respectfully submit these comments on MPCA's proposed amendment to rules governing waste treated seed (OAH Docket No. 23-9003-39350). **The Xerces Society** is an international nonprofit that uses science-driven methods to protect invertebrate wildlife and their habitat; we work directly with farmers across Minnesota to safeguard pollinator populations. **American Bird Conservancy** is an international non-profit that seeks to conserve birds and habitats across the Americas. ABC staff work actively with Minnesota agencies and residents to advance bird conservation practices and issues.

First, we want to thank MPCA for the time and effort that went into developing new rules and language that clarifies existing or implied rules governing the proper disposal of waste treated seed in the state of Minnesota. We also appreciate the thoroughness of the explanations for changes laid out in the "Statement of Need and Reasonableness" (hereafter "SNR"). We are largely in agreement with the regulations as proposed and we support how MPCA has defined its regulatory authority to create and enforce the proposed rules (*Justification for Minn. R. 7035.3700, Subp. 5 & Subp. 6*, SNR pgs. 34-35).

- I. We wish to expressly convey our support for the following changes or language clarifications in the proposed amendment:
 - <u>Leaching mitigation.</u> It is declared that waste treated seed (WTS) is classified as industrial solid waste (Minn. R. 7035.3700 Subp. 2, SNR pg. 23). Excluding some generators who may bury WTS on their own farmland, this means that generators must send WTS to disposal facilities that are equipped with a liner and leachate management system (see SNR pg. 27, Minn R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Item A, Subi. (1)). This reasonably addresses the concern we raised in our initial public comment about soil and groundwater contamination.
 - Covering seed immediately. We strongly support the new requirement for mixed municipal solid waste land disposal facilities to place immediate cover on WTS (Minn. R. 7035.2815, Subp. 6, Item A, SNR pg. 21) to prevent harm to wildlife, such as birds and deer, that might forage on pesticide-coated seeds. This was a priority concern in our initial comments to MPCA, and we are glad to see this addressed in statute.

- Composting prohibition. We support the added provisions that clearly state that WTS is categorically excluded from all composting operations, including at mixed municipal solid waste disposal sites. (SNR pgs 20-21, Minn R. 7035.2525, Subp.2, Items A &L)
- Prohibited uses and reuses. We appreciate the thought that MPCA put into the need for explicitly stating prohibited uses in the regulations in a manner that is clear to readers (Justification for Minn. R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Items D, E, and F, SNR pg. 31). We support provisions stating that WTS may not be used, donated, sold, or offered for animal feed, and we appreciate the clarification that this applied tor wildlife. We support provisions that explicitly prohibit the use of WTS for oil processing, fuel, or fuel production. These regulations are essential for preventing the disastrous consequences witnessed in Mead, Nebraska when WTS was used for ethanol production resulting in byproducts with astronomical levels of pesticides. The byproducts were then spread on local fields as soil conditioners or via irrigation, contaminating the surrounding area and its waterways with harmful levels of pesticides. Clean up has been costly and it is taking years to complete.
- Open burning prohibition. We support provisions that prohibit open burning of WTS. We request that MPCA further clarify that waste generated from farms are covered by the prohibition in the statutory language (Minn R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Item B). This restriction is clear in the justification (SNR), but it is less clear in the regulations themselves.
- Burial prohibition. We generally support the provisions that prohibit burial of treated seed (Minn R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Item A). We find the provision exempting "a person who owns or operates land used for farming, if the waste treated seed is generated as part of... [the farming operation]" to be reasonable because the regulations specifically state that this exemption does not apply if there is reasonable access to "regularly scheduled pickup of solid waste." (Minn R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Item A (3), SNR pg. 30). We encourage MPCA to work with municipalities to determine which areas in the state have "reasonable access" and to educate those generators about proper disposal.
- <u>Prohibited burial locations.</u> We support provisions that prohibit WTS burial on karst, wetlands, floodplains, and shorelands. We support the regulations within Minn R. 7035.3700, Subp. 4, Item A (3) that specify some required best practices for burial (e.g. contouring of the burial site), which help to prevent wildlife poisoning, contamination from runoff, and groundwater infiltration.
- II. Below we outline recommended revisions or additions to the proposed amendment for MPCA's consideration for incorporation into the final rules. These are as follows:
 - MPCA should require a WTS burial setback distance that is greater than
 200 ft for private wells that supply drinking water to humans or animals. As

MPCA acknowledges, burial of WTS is the least preferred option for disposal because this can further contribute to surface and groundwater contamination. Neonicotinoids, which are applied as seed treatments to some of Minnesota's most abundant crops (corn, soy, wheat) often end up in waterways. Most of the neonics applied to seeds are *not* absorbed by the growing plants, leaving 80–98% of the pesticides in the soil, where they can then move into surface or groundwater¹. As a result, neonicotinoids are present in Midwestern waterways throughout the year, often at levels that pose risk to aquatic species ^{2,3}. Broader studies across the Midwest have noted elevated pulses of neonics in waterways during crop planting, attributed to seed treatments (Hladik et al. 2014, Berens et al. 2021). Given the high solubility of neonicotinoids, and in the absence of good data showing how seed burial (vs. planting) may affect pesticide infiltration of waterways, it is It is reasonable to assume that seeds buried en masse at a single location only 200 ft away from a water well is not sufficiently protective. MPCA should operate under the precautionary principle and increase this distance; we recommend 1000 ft, which MPCA uses for other water sources.

- MPCA should prohibit WTS burial on wellhead protection areas. The proposed amendment requires a setback distance of 1000 feet from public water supplies. We would like MPCA to clarify where the setback begins and ends. For example, MN Department of Public health https://has.mapped.well.protection.areas.and.drinking.water.supply.management.areas. It is reasonable to prohibit burial of seeds in these areas, especially in areas where the underlying aquifer is at "moderate" to "high" risk of contamination from overlying land use. We ask MPCA to strengthen this aspect of the amended rules.
- MPCA must better define best practices for WTS burial on-farm. If there is a large quantity of WTS that a generator is permitted to bury on-farm, that generator needs information about best practices for minimizing harm to waterways and wildlife. MPCA discusses burial depth and setbacks, but it does not discuss appropriate concentrations of seed per area. Throughout the SNR, the assumption is made that buried seed present no greater risk than seeds planted on the farm. We argue that the level of risk is dependent on the quantity of seed that is being buried, the size of the area over which that seed is buried, and how that seed is distributed. These aspects of disposal for eligible generators need to be addressed in the final rules.
- We ask MPCA to track WTS quantities entering the waste stream. We appreciate the clarification that disposal facility operators accepting WTS must

¹ Alford & Krupke 2017. Translocation of the neonicotinoid seed treatment clothianidin in maize. PLoS One, 12(3):e0173836. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0173836.

² Hladik et al. 2018. Year-round presence of neonicotinoid insecticides in tributaries to the Great Lakes, USA. Environmental Pollution 235:1022–1029. doi: 10.1016/i.envpol.2018.01.013

³ Schepker et al.. 2020. Neonicotinoid insecticide concentrations in agricultural wetlands and associations with aquatic invertebrate communities. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 287:106678, doi: 10.1016/j.agee.2019.106678

determine the maximum volume of waste treated seed the facility can accept daily (see SNR pg. 21, Minn. R. 7035.2815, Subp. 11, Item F, (2)). If the facility has to determine how much waste treated seed it can accept, we presume the facility has to track how much seed they recieve in order to know if they are approaching an established cap. It therefore seems reasonable for MPCA to collect information on the amount of seed coming into waste facilities. This information is important for understanding the scale of WTS disposal in MN and whether additional policies are needed to address this waste stream.

- We ask MPCA to work with MDA to develop consistent labelling for treated seed in MN as it relates to disposal requirements. We fully concur with MPCA's description of the status of treated seed labelling in the U.S. starting SNR pg. 34. The Xerces Society and American Bird Conservancy responded to EPA's Advanced Notice of Public Rule-Making regarding treated seed (Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0420-0001) and made several recommendations for label requirements enforceable under FIFRA. As MPCA describes, currently there is no enforceable label for treated seeds and the labels that do exist are often vague and inconsistent. They may also be in conflict with the rules established by MPCA. We appreciate MPCA's efforts to get the word out as described on SNR pg. 40 and we strongly support the creation of consistent labels for treated seed in MN that convey the state's disposal requirements.
- Spilled seed not recovered for planting should be defined as WTS.
 Observational studies on Minnesota farmland have found that growers are not properly mitigating spilled neonicotinoid-coated seed during the course of planting, directly exposing local wildlife to toxic chemicals and underscoring the need for regulations⁴. We recommend classifying spilled seed that is not recovered for subsequent planting as WTS, subject to the disposal regulations developed by MPCA.

We again thank MPCA for the time and effort invested in developing reasonable WTS disposal rules that can be clearly understood in statute. We appreciate what you have produced and hope the agency will take our recommended improvements under consideration.

Sincerely.

Rosemary Malfi, Ph.D., Policy Director, on behalf of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. rosemary.malfi@xerces.org

E. Hardy Kern III, MPA, Director of Government Relations, Pesticides and Birds Campaign, on behalf of the American Bird Conservancy. ehardykern@abcbirds.org

⁴ Roy CL, Coy PL, Chen D, Ponder J, Jankowski M. Multi-scale availability of neonicotinoid-treated seed for wildlife in an agricultural landscape during spring planting. Sci Total Environ. 2019 Sep 10;682:271-281. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.05.010.



Rules Governing Waste Treated Seed

Feb 14, 2025

To: The Office of Administrative Hearings

Attn: Judge Suzanne Todnem

600 Robert St No

St Paul, MN 55101

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Waste Treated Seed, MN Rules, Chapter 7065 an 7045. Revisor's ID Number R-4806. OAH Docket No.23-9003-39350.

Dear Judge Todnem:

I am an entomologist whose research has involved studying aquatic insects that are bioindicators of water quality. Currently I am also a board member of Pollinator Friendly Alliance, a conservation organization that works on using native plants to restore land, creating healthy habitats for invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife.

Research has reported that some species of pollinators and birds have been declining as the ubiquitous use of pesticides has increased in the last 2 decades. The use of pesticide treated seeds in rural landscapes has led to chemical contamination of soils, drinking water and aquatic habitats as well as causing illness in humans and wildlife.

Wildlife and human health effects associated with neonicotinoid pesticides:

https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/results/pubs/rr/reports/rr15 508.pdf

Effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on white-tailed deer:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/safety-concerns-mount-over-neonicotinoidpesticides-in-unexpected-places I wish to address some portions of the MPCA Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Waste Treated Seeds(WTS).

Prohibitions for burial of WTS.

If WTS is buried on private property it may contaminate the soil, ground or surface water or be carried to adjacent waterways or properties. The neonicotinoids (neonics) are the most commonly used chemicals used to coat corn, soybeans and wheat seeds, but as much as 90% are not absorbed by the plants and have been frequently documented ending up in the soil and water.

MPCA acknowledges that burial of WTS is the least preferred option, and in MN, neonics are a "surface water pesticide of concern".

https://www.mda.state.us/surface-water-pesticide-concern

Since MPCA uses 1000 ft as the distance required to prevent the spread of neonics used near water, therefore WTS must be buried at least 1000' from any private wells used for drinking water for humans or animals. In addition, there should be specific clarification of where setback begins and ends for burial on wellhead protection areas.

WTS should never be buried or disposed of in geologically sensitive karst or aquatic habitats such as wetlands, floodplains, or shorelands to prevent any wildlife poisoning, contamination from runoff, or groundwater infiltration.

Kuechle, K.J. et al. Seed treatments containing neonicotinoids and fungicides reduce aquatic insect richness and abundance in midwestern USA-managed floodplain wetlands. Environ Sci Pollut Res 29, 45261-45275 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-022-18991-9

Due to unregulated dumping of WTS on the grounds of at the AltEn Ethanol Plant in Mead, NB in 2021, there were gaseous explosions causing major contamination of the soil, water and air for miles around the plant. In addition, 20 honey bee research hives within 1 mile of the ethanol plant was destroyed. Although mitigation began, there was a 2nd incident that year, and after 4 years of mitigation the plant closed. **MN cannot risk such degradation of our soil, water and wildlife.**

Ethanol from treated seed pollutes Mead, Nebraska:

https://www.theguaridan.com/us-news/2021/jan/10/mead-nebraska-ethanol-plant-pollution-danger

Therefore, there must be specific allowances for concentrations of seed per acre in order to determine the appropriate scale for WTS disposal in any given facility, and WTS should not be legally used as management options in ethanol production or other fermentation.

There are no current requirements for the labeling of bags of treated seed. The MDA and MPCA should develop clear and consistent labels for proper disposal requirements.

If water is used to rinse out the seed packages, it should not be applied to crops because the rinse water is also potentially toxic to wildlife.

In typical planting operations, there are often leftover and/or spilled seeds, which if eaten by birds or other wildlife may be toxic.

Roy CL,et al. Multi-scale availability of neonicotinoid-treated seed for wildlife in an agricultural landscape during spring planting. Sci Total Environ.2019 Sep 10; 682:271-281.doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.05.010

Any leftover or spilled treated seeds should be defined as WTS and never be allowed to remain in place, nor be scattered in Wildlife Management Areas as has frequently been done as food for deer. Research in 2019 discovered neonics in 61 % of 799 deer spleens turned in by hunters from across MN.

As long as WTS is classified as industrial solid waste, it must be only be sent to facilities designed with liners for leachate management in order to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.

If there are scheduled pickups of solid waste, with "reasonable access for farm operations", it seems reasonable that WTS could be safely disposed of in this manner.

All WTS delivered to solid waste disposal facilities must be immediately and securely covered to prevent foraging by wildlife.

In addition, and due to the fact that the neonics and other chemicals may remain the soil for years, WTS should never be permitted in any composting facilities, including mixed municipal solid waste disposal sites.

Open burning of WTS should be prohibited on all public or private landscapes.

Thank you for your important work on this serious topic.

Sincerely,

Margot Monson, entomologist, beekeeper

22 Ludlow Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108





Matthew C. Berger Also admitted in Iowa 507-354-3111 mberger@gislason.com

February 14, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

daniel.gonzalez@state.mn.us

Daniel Gonzalez Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Waste Treated Seeds – Public Data Request Under the Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes §§ 13.01 *et seq.*Our File No. 30970-10

I represent several organizations comprised of agricultural producers throughout Minnesota. On July 19, 2024, I submitted a request to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of these organizations requesting public data under the Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes §§ 13.01 *et seq.*, related to the agency's regulation of waste treated seeds. After months of delay, the MPCA finally contacted my office (after multiple attempts from our office to contact the agency and get an update on the status of our request) with a request to discuss the scope of the requests. That discussion has occurred. But despite assurances that the MPCA was processing our requests and would be producing responsive data "soon," we have not yet received any data responsive to our request.

Our request was specifically prepared and submitted to obtain information that the organizations I represent intend to use in providing comments during this rulemaking process. And the request was submitted well in advance of the MPCA's publication of the proposed rules and this comment period in an effort to ensure that my clients would have the necessary information at the appropriate time. The agency's failure to timely respond to our request for public data hinders my clients' ability to fully evaluate and comment on the proposed rule. It is not appropriate for the MPCA to push forward with this rulemaking while, at the same time, continuing to withhold public data that is directly related to this rulemaking and that should have been provided to us months ago.

GISLASON & HUNTER LLP

Page 2

Daniel Gonzalez Minnesota Pollution Control Agency February 14, 2025

In light of the MPCA's failure to provide a meaningful and timely response to our request under the Minnesota Data Practices Act, I hereby request that the public comment period be extended, or that any public hearing on the proposed rules be delayed or extended, until after the agency fully responds to our information request. Public participation in this process is extremely important, and the agency's failure to timely provide the requested information is directly and negatively affecting the ability of my clients and their members to fully participate in the public comment and hearing process.

If the MPCA is not willing to voluntarily take these actions, we will consider alternative legal or administrative remedies to ensure that my clients and their members are able to exercise their legal rights to fully participate in this rulemaking process.

Thank you for your attention concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

Matthew C. Berger

Watthew C. Ben

MCB:elm

cc: Office of Administrative Proceedings (via the Rulemaking eComments website)



Signature:	De fre
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Address:	24100 430th St SW
	Beltrami, MN 56517

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Treated Seed	d. I oppose the entire set of rules that the MFGA proposes to adopt.	
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Signature:	A d	
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Office of Administrative Hearings

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Name:	Day Monson FEB 1/2000
Address:	Mankato, MN 5600)
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Name:	Matalie Storm REA
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Name:	Die	RECEIVED
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		Office of Administrative Hearings

Signature:	Ja Kelley	
Name:	Jim Kellogg	
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Office of Administrative Hearings

Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency published in the *State Register* on December 30, 2024, I request that the MPCA hold a hearing regarding its proposal to adopt rules governing Waste

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Name:	Lawren Senock FOR
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Signature:	Donne helson	RECE
Name:	Donna Nelson	FEB 1 20
Address:	Grove City, 1	Office of Administrative Hearings
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Signature:	Donly Frohom FEB
Name:	BIRSS 380 + Street Hearings
Address:	81985 380 th Street Hearings
	Bird Island, MN 55310

Signature:	FEB 1 4 2025
Name:	Jim J'CANNO Office of Administrative Hearings
Address:	
	Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

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Address:	1302 22 ND ST	NW Ininistrative L
	East Grand Forks,	MN 56721
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Name:	Austin Lessard	
Address:	6668 148th Ave NE	Office of Action in the Alas
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Signature:	Andy	Mag	FEB 1 4 2025
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Address:	Eden	Valley	35329
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Signature:	Duight Dahlman	Office FEB 1 VED
Name:	Dwight Dallman	OF ACININIST
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Signature:	John F. Struenz	
Name:	Jack Gruenes	RECEIVED
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Signature:	Bradley Minnick	REO
Name:	BRADLEY MINNICK	RECEIVED
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	Meeker County	De of Administrative Hearings
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Name:	Russ Peterso.	
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Name:	BRANDON FAST	FFD 4
Address:	600 2ND AV	CNUT Office of Administrative Hearings
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Signature:	Mil Mys	REO
Signature.		CEIVEN
Name:	David J. Vonkhompensurs	Fr
Address:	2045 20th Are SE Office	FEB 1 4 2025
Address.	Montevideo, MN 56265	of Administrative Hearings
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Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency published in the *State Register* on December 30, 2024, I request that the MPCA hold a hearing regarding its proposal to adopt rules governing Waste Treated Seed. I oppose the entire set of rules that the MPCA propose the action of the propose that the MPCA propose the entire set of rules the

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Signature:	- July C	RECEIVED
Name:	Angela Guentzel	
Address:	32172 4904h St	FEB 1 4 2025
	Kasota MN 36050	Office of Administrative Hearings
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Signature:	Jens	pt	TE	CEIVED
Name:	0	Kanten	FEB	1 4 2025
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Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency published in the State Register on December 30, 2024, I request
that the MPCA hold a hearing regarding its proposal to adopt rules governing Waste
Treated Seed. I oppose the entire set of rules that the MPCA proposes to adopt.

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| Dana Allen-Tulksofaminishalise Heart
| Address: | 1007 Bush Court Swalling Heart

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Name:	Bryan Biegler	FEB 1 4 2020
Address:	718 151st St.	CANCE Of Administrative Ho
	Lake Wilson, MN	15615/ 3615/

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Address:	73780 2704	Street Administration
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Signature:	John Mill	REO
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Signature:	,
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Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency published in the State Register on December 30, 2024, I request
that the MPCA hold a hearing regarding its proposal to adopt rules governing Waste
Treated Seed. I oppose the entire set of rules that the MPCA proposes to adopt.

Signature:

Name:

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Signature:	Danice Poterson
Name:	Janice Peterson RECEIVED
Address:	82641 130+h St FB 1620
	Sacred Heart Omeore 2025
	MN 56285

Signature:	Conse Miller FED EIVED
Name:	Gregg Muchlor Office of Administrative Homas
Address:	4403 Blue Sten Way Halling Hearing
	Moorhead, MN 55560

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Address:	29175 230th Street
	Wabasso, MN 56293
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Signature:		RECEIVED
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Office of Administrative Hearings

Signature:		
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Address:	35781 State HWY 220 SBECEIVED
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Name:	Pat Sullivan RECEIVED
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Signature:	Conto	RECEIVED
Name:	Tom Frisch	FEB 1 4 2025
Address:	P.O. Box 145	ministrative Hearings
	Dumont, mn 56236	

Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution	
Control Agency published in the State Register on December 30, 2024, I request	
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Signature:	- lyl fr	FEB 1 4 2025
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Name:	Rodd Peyer From
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Name:	Model Roberts FEB 14 2025
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Signature:	Kose Wendinger	RECEIL
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Name:	Kichard Lambert CEVED
Address:	2926 300+6 Ave FEB 1120
	Office 2025
	Tollock, The Scholinistralive Hearings

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Name:	DREW LYON	FEB 1 4 2025
Address:	1112 N. 4th St	FED 14 ZUZJ
	MANKATO, MIN 56001	Office of Administrative Hearings

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Signature:	Karen Kolle	
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Signature:	July July	RECEIVED
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Address:	KIMBALL MW	200
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Name:	Jim Kullows (Ciorge 18 202
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Pursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency published in the State Register on December 30, 2024, I request
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	Tyler Mn, 56178 Administrative Hearings	

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Name:	MIKE Skang FEB 1 4 2025	
Address:	MIKE SKANG FEB 1 4 2025 31498 4207 St. Sw. Office of Administrative He	arings
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Name:	Brad Hovel	FEB 1 4 2025
Address:	= 34440 Co	Price of Administrative Hearings
	Cannon Falls,	MN 5509

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Name:	Robert Worth	Office Of Act. 1 202
Address:	408 So Iremont	St ministration
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Signature:	FEB 9 4 2020
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Address:	105 Fair La Rd Hearings
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Name:	Kent Rowlen	FEB 1 4 2025
Address:	10025 Hugy 40 DW	िनीive Hearingg
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Signature:	Robert Enclo
Name:	Robert E. Welsen
Address:	1173 2000 An
	Westleroh mRECEIVED 83
	FEB 1 4 2025

Signature: Signature:
Name: Jeff Ignaszeyski
Address 22074
Wells, mg 56097
FEB 1 4 2025

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Signature:	: John, Swapson	VED
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Name:	James Johnstall	FEB 1 4 2025
Address:	24529 440+ ST	Office of Administrative Hearings
	Beltram MN SGS1	7
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Signature:	Why	ghr	RE(CEIVED	
Name:	Ashley	Helm	FEB ;	1 4 202r	
Address:	(05679	240° ST	Office of Administr	ratio.	
	L. Achfrell	MNG	5355	Hearings	

Signature:	MH	MM	-1	LEIVED
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Address:	39342	CSAH	25	ministrative p
	Paynes	suille.	MX	56361/192

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Signature:	Lay Trisky FFD ED
Name:	Gary Preschinger, 12025
Address:	56724 108th Strainghe
	Wells, MN 56097

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Signature: Dan Commerce Teceiv	<u>ED</u>
Name: Daniel Gerlache FEB 14 202	5
Name: Daniel Gerlacher FEB 14 202 Address: 15241 540th Ave 160	
Austin MN 55912	arings

Signature:	ALAN G ADAMS RECEIVE	Ð
Name:	Ale Is Adams FFD a	
Address:	57772 110 TH St Office of Administrative Hear	
	Losnos MV 56228	ng.

Signature:	Douglas	Adams
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Name:	Thomas	45 S	chw:H	•	FFR 1 / 2025	
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	Eden	Valley	MN	Offic	ce of Administrative Hea	ıring
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Name: _	KEVIN LIBBESMEITER	
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Name:	Kon tagel
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oignature.		
Name:	Eliot A. Bieniek	
Address:	Litchfield, my	
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	FEB 1 4 2025	

ursuant to the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules that the Minnesota Pollution
ontrol Agency published in the State Register on December 30, 2024, I request
at the MPCA hold a hearing regarding its proposal to adopt rules governing Waste
eated Seed. I oppose the entire set of rules/that the MPCA proposes to adopt.
gnature: Szutt V.
ame: Scott V. Olson
ddress: Litchfield, MN RECEIVED



Signature:	De fre
Name:	ROSS Hamre
Address:	24100 430th St Sw
	Beltrami, MN 56517
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